I Claim:

1.   A system for selectively accepting an electronic message sent from a sender through a remote host over a connection to a recipient, the system comprising:

a dialup filter determining whether the connection is a dialup connection;

5   a relay filter determining whether the remote host is an open relay;

a user filter verifying whether the sender of the electronic message is authorized; and,

a recipient whitelist database including a list of acceptable sender addresses for at least one recipient, wherein if said dialup filter determines that the connection is a dialup connection, or said relay filter determines that the remote host is an open relay, or said user filter determines

10   that the sender is not authorized, then said system determines whether the sender is in said recipient whitelist database.

2.   The system of claim 1, wherein the sender is contained in said recipient whitelist database if a MAIL From address of the sender matches a substring stored in said recipient

15   whitelist database.

3.   The system of claim 1, wherein the list of acceptable sender addresses includes a null set of sender addresses.

20   4.   The system of claim 1, further comprising a quarantine database, wherein if said user filter determines that the sender is not authorized, the sender address is not in said recipient whitelist database, and the user filter is flagged for quarantining, then the message is quarantined for that recipient in said quarantine database.

5.   The system of claim 1, further comprising a quarantine database, wherein if said user filter determines that the sender is not authorized, the sender address is not in said recipient whitelist database, and the user filter is not flagged for quarantining, then the message is rejected for that recipient.

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6.   The system of claim 1, further comprising a quarantine database, wherein if said dialup filter determines that the connection is a dialup connection, the sender address is not in said recipient whitelist database, and the dialup filter is flagged for quarantining, then the message is quarantined for that recipient in said quarantine database.

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7.   The system of claim 1, further comprising a quarantine database, wherein if said dialup filter determines that the connection is a dialup, the sender address is not in said recipient whitelist database, and the dialup filter is not flagged for quarantining, then the message is rejected for that recipient.

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8.   The system of claim 1, further comprising a quarantine database, wherein if said relay filter determines that the remote host is an open relay, the sender address is not in said recipient whitelist database, and the relay filter is flagged for quarantining, then the message is quarantined for that recipient in said quarantine database

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9.   The system of claim 1, further comprising a quarantine database, wherein if said relay filter determines that the remote host is an open relay, the sender address is not in said

recipient whitelist database, and the relay filter is not flagged for quarantining, then the message is rejected for that recipient.

10.   A system for selectively accepting an electronic message sent from a sender through a remote host to a recipient, the system comprising:

a dialup filter determining whether the connection is a dialup connection;

a relay filter determining whether the remote host is an open relay;

a user filter verifying whether the sender of the electronic message is authorized; and,

a quarantine database, wherein if one or more of said dialup filter, relay filter or user filter is flagged for quarantining, then the message is quarantined for that recipient in said quarantine database when said flagged dialup filter determines that the connection is a dialup connection, said flagged relay filter determines that the remote host is an open relay, or said flagged user filter determines that the sender is not authorized.

11.   The system of claim 10, wherein a user at the local MTA can selectively retrieve the quarantined message.

12.   The system of claim 11, further comprising a blacklist database having a list of blacklisted network addresses, wherein when the quarantined message is retrieved, a blacklisted network address for that remote host is removed from the said blacklist database.

13.   The system of claim 10, wherein if one or more of said dialup filter, relay filter or user filter are not flagged for quarantining, then the message is rejected for that recipient when

said unflagged dialup filter determines that the connection is a dialup connection, said unflagged relay filter determines that the remote host is an open relay, or said unflagged user filter determines that the sender is not authorized.

5   14.   An article of manufacture for selectively accepting an electronic message sent from a sender through a remote host to a recipient, the article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions which, when performed by a processor, cause the processor to execute the steps comprising the steps of:

determining at least one of whether the connection is a dialup connection, the remote host

10   is an open relay or the sender is authorized; and,

determining whether a sender of the electronic message is matched in a recipient whitelist database in response to determining that the connection was established by a dialup connection, the remote host is an open relay or the sender is not authorized.

15   15.   The article of manufacture of claim 14, wherein the sender is identified in the recipient whitelist database if a MAIL From address of the sender matches a substring stored in the recipient whitelist database.

16.   The article of manufacture of claim 14, further comprising flagging at least one of

20   the determining whether the connection is a dialup, the remote host is an open relay or the sender is authorized and quarantining any message when the at least one flagged determining determines that the connection is a dialup, the remote host is an open relay or the sender is not authorized.

17.   A method for selectively accepting an electronic message transferred over a

connection from a sender through a remote host to a recipient, the method comprising:

determining at least one of whether the connection is a dialup connection, the remote host

is an open relay or the sender is authorized; and,

5   determining whether a sender of the electronic message is identified in a recipient whitelist

database in response to determining that the connection was established by a dialup connection,

the remote host is an open relay or the sender is not authorized.

18.   The system of claim 17, further comprising adding the remote host to a blacklist

10   database if the sender is not matched in any recipient whitelist database.

19.   The article of manufacture of claim 17, wherein the sender is identified in the

recipient whitelist database if a MAIL From address of the sender matches a substring stored in

the recipient whitelist database.

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20.   A method for selectively accepting an electronic message comprising providing at

least one filter that determines whether the electronic message is undesirable, flagging at least

one filter for quarantining, and quarantining the electronic message for any flagged filter if that

filter determines that the electronic message is undesirable.

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21.   The method of claim 20, wherein a system administrator or the message recipient

can selectively retrieve the quarantined electronic message.

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22.   The method of claim 21, further comprising storing a list of blacklisted network addresses, and removing a blacklisted network address for the remote host when the quarantined message is retrieved.

5   23.   A system for selectively accepting an electronic message sent from a sender through a remote host over a connection to a recipient, the system comprising a dialup filter determining whether the connection is a dialup connection and a recipient whitelist database including a list of acceptable sender addresses, wherein if said dialup filter determines that the connection is a dialup connection, then said system accepts the message for that recipient if the

10   sender address is in said recipient whitelist database.

        24.   The system of claim 23, further comprising a blacklist database, wherein the remote host is added to the blacklist database if the sender is not matched in any recipient whitelist database.

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        25.   The system of claim 23, wherein said system rejects the message for that recipient if said dialup filter determines that the connection is a dialup connection and the sender address is not in said recipient whitelist database.

20   26.   The system of claim 23, further comprising a quarantine database, wherein if said dialup filter determines that the connection is a dialup connection, the sender address is not in said recipient whitelist database, and the dialup filter is flagged for quarantining, then the message is quarantined for that recipient in said quarantine database.

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27.   A system for selectively accepting an electronic message sent from a sender

through a remote host to a recipient, the system comprising a relay filter determining whether the

remote host is an open relay and a recipient whitelist database including a list of acceptable

sender addresses, wherein if said relay filter determines that the remote host is an open relay,

5   then said system accepts the message for that recipient if the sender address is in said recipient

whitelist database.

28.   The system of claim 27, further comprising a blacklist database, wherein the

remote host is added to the blacklist database if the sender is not matched in any recipient

10   whitelist database.

29.   The system of claim 27, wherein said system rejects the message for that recipient

if said relay filter determines that the remote host is an open relay and the sender address is not in

said recipient whitelist database.

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30.   The system of claim 27, further comprising a quarantine database, wherein if said

relay filter determines that remote host is an open relay, the sender address is not in said recipient

whitelist database, and the relay filter is flagged for quarantining, then the message is

quarantined for that recipient in said quarantine database.

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31.   A system for selectively accepting an electronic message sent from a sender

through a remote host to a recipient, the system comprising a user filter verifying whether the

sender of the electronic message is authorized; and a recipient whitelist database including a list

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of acceptable sender addresses, wherein if said user filter determines that the sender is not

authorized, then said system accepts the message for that recipient if the sender address is in said

recipient whitelist database.

5   32.   The system of claim 31, further comprising a blacklist database, wherein the

remote host is added to the blacklist database if the sender is not matched in any recipient

whitelist database.

33.   The system of claim 31, wherein said system rejects the message for that recipient

10   if said user filter determines that the user is not authorized, and the sender address is not in said

recipient whitelist database.

34.   The system of claim 31, further comprising a quarantine database, wherein if said

user filter determines that the sender is not authorized, the sender address is not in said recipient

15   whitelist database, and the user filter is flagged for quarantining, then the message is quarantined

for that recipient in said quarantine database.

35.   A system for selectively accepting an electronic message sent from a sender

through a remote host over a connection to a recipient, the system comprising a dialup filter

20   determining whether the connection is a dialup connection and a quarantine database, wherein if

said dialup filter determines that the connection is a dialup connection and the dialup filter is

flagged for quarantining, then the message is quarantined for that recipient in said quarantine

database.

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36.   The system of claim 35, wherein said system rejects the message for that recipient if said dialup filter determines that the connection is a dialup connection and the dialup filter is not flagged for quarantining.

5   37.   The system of claim 35, further comprising a blacklist database having a list of blacklisted network addresses, wherein when the quarantined message is retrieved, a blacklisted network address for that remote host is removed from said blacklist database.

        38.   A system for selectively accepting an electronic message sent from a sender

10   through a remote host to a recipient, the system comprising a relay filter determining whether the remote host is an open relay and a quarantine database, wherein if said relay filter determines that remote host is an open relay and the relay filter is flagged for quarantining, then the message is quarantined for that recipient in said quarantine database.

15   39.   The system of claim 38, wherein said system rejects the message for that recipient if said relay filter determines the remote host is an open relay and the relay filter is not flagged for quarantining.

        40.   The system of claim 38, further comprising a blacklist database having a list of

20   blacklisted network addresses, wherein when the quarantined message is retrieved, a blacklisted network address for that remote host is removed from said blacklist database.

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41.   A system for selectively accepting an electronic message sent from a sender through a remote host to a recipient, the system comprising a user filter verifying whether the sender of the electronic message is authorized, and a quarantine database, wherein if said user filter determines that the sender is not authorized and the user filter is flagged for quarantining, then the message is quarantined for that recipient in said quarantine database.

42.   The system of claim 41, wherein said system rejects the message for that recipient if said user filter determines that the user is not authorized and the user filter is not flagged for quarantining.

43.   The system of claim 41, further comprising a blacklist database having a list of blacklisted network addresses, wherein when the quarantined message is retrieved, a blacklisted network address for that remote host is removed from said blacklist database.